IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for transmitting information between two or more points, comprising:

receiving a virtual number at a first intermediate point from at least one originating point, the first intermediate point operatively connected to a packet-based network;

converting the virtual number into at least one physical number;

determining a second intermediate point based on the at least one physical number, the second intermediate point operatively connected to the packet-based network;

determining at least one destination point based on the at least one physical number; and

transmitting information between the at least one originating point and the at least one destination point.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the receiving comprises establishing a communication path between the first intermediate point and the at least one originating point.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the converting comprises comparing the virtual number to a routing table.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining a second intermediate point comprises establishing a communication path between the first intermediate point and the second intermediate point.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining at least one destination point comprises establishing a communication path between the at least one destination point and the second intermediate point.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for transmitting information between at least two points, comprising:

a first intermediate point operatively connected to at least one originating point to receive a virtual number, wherein the virtual number is converted into at least one physical number;

a second intermediate point capable of communicating with the first intermediate point over a computer network;

at least one destination point operatively connected to the second intermediate point, wherein the second intermediate point is determined based on its proximity to the at least one destination point.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the virtual number comprises an area code, wherein the area code is within a local calling area of the at least one originating point.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein information is transmitted over the computer network based on packets.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein information is transmitted to and from the originating and destination points based on analog signals.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first and second intermediate points are capable of analog to digital conversion and digital to analog conversion.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first and second intermediate points comprise servers.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the at least one originating point and the at least one destination point comprise telephones.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the virtual number is converted into at least one physical number based on a routing table.

14. (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of virtual numbers are converted into a single physical number.

15. (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1, wherein the virtual number is converted into a plurality of physical numbers corresponding to more than one destination point.

16. (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1, wherein the physical number includes a destination physical number and routing instructions corresponding to the second intermediate point.

17. (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 15, wherein the step of transmitting information includes simultaneously transmitting information between at least one originating point and more than one destination point.

18. (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 15, wherein the step of transmitting information includes sequentially transmitting information between at least one originating point and more than one destination point.

19. (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one destination point is on a local computer network with the first or the second intermediate point.

20. (Currently Amended)   A method for transmitting information between two or more points, comprising:

receiving a virtual number at a first intermediate point from at least one originating point, the first intermediate point operatively connected to a packet-based network;

converting the virtual number into at least one physical number;

determining a second intermediate point using a first routing table at the first intermediate point, the second intermediate point operatively connected to the packet-based network;

determining at least one destination point using a second routing table at the second intermediate point; and

transmitting information between the at least one originating point and the at least one destination point.